

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-34 are pending. Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-4, 12-13, 26-28 and 33-34) for examination on the merits, with traverse. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute nonelected subject matter in a further patent application.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested.

Traversal is based on the lack of a showing that examining claims of Groups I-III would constitute an undue burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application.

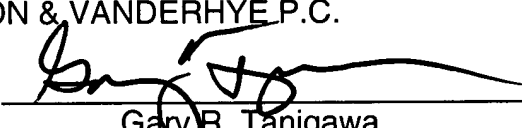
The amendments correct informalities in the claims and do not affect their scope.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary R. Tanigawa  
Reg. No. 43,180

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100